Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In accordance with an example embodiment, the LRD 109 is a compound parabolic concentrator (CPC), a known device to one of ordinary skill in the art, which is described in further detail herein. This is merely illustrative, as other optical elements may be used to meet the desired characteristic function of the LRD 109 of the example embodiments. To this end, an optical element that results in a narrower angular distribution of the light while at the same time returning the reflected light back to the source may be used as the LRD 109. For example, the collimators as described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,457,423 may be used. The disclosure of this patent, which is assigned to the present assignee, is specifically incorporated herein by reference. Additionally, in an example embodiment, the reflective polarizer 108 is a wire grid polarizer. Alternatively, the reflective polarizer 108 may be a dielectric stack polarizer or similar interference-based polarizer that reflects all but a selected wavelength. Finally, the aforementioned optional quarter-wave plate (QWP) ~~113~~ may be a dielectric stack polarizer, a crystal polarizer or similar retarder. It is noted that the various illustrative elements are intended to be examples of devices useful in carrying the embodiments, and are not intended to limit the metes and bounds of the embodiments.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 23 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the event that the reflected light 112 is not reabsorbed and re-emitted by the LED; or its polarization state is unchanged after reflection by the reflective polarizer, its state of polarization is orthogonal to the polarization axis of the reflective polarizer. Unless its state of polarization is transformed to be parallel to that of the axis of the polarizer, this light is again reflected by then reflective polarizer 108. Optionally, in order to transmit at least a portion of this light, a quarter wave plate (QWP) ~~113~~ may be disposed between the reflective polarizer 108 and the LRD 109. Thereby, after

traversing the QWP ~~113~~ twice, the polarization state of the light, which emerges from the reflective polarizer 108 in an orthogonal polarization state, is transmitted by the reflective polarizer 108 after recycling as described above.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Each of the optical elements 201, 202 and 203, have a reflective polarizer 204 disposed on a surface opposite the LED 211 as shown. The reflective polarizer 204 transmits light of one state of linear polarization and reflects light of a state of linear polarization that is orthogonal to that transmitted. The type and function of the reflective polarizers are as described in connection with the embodiments of Fig. 1. One or more of the optical elements ~~101, 102, 103~~ 201, 202, 203 optionally include a QWP 205 disposed between the reflective polarizer 204 and the surface of the CPC 212 to improve the efficiency of the coupling of polarized light of a desired orientation from the LED's. Again, details of the function of the QWP are as described above in connection with the embodiments of Fig. 1.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In accordance with an example embodiment, the LED 211 of the first optical element 201 emits red light 215, the LED 211 of the second optical element 202 emits green light 216 and the LED of the third optical element emits blue light 217. The light from the LED's is unpolarized, and the polarization components of this light are parallel and perpendicular to the polarization axis of the respective reflective polarizers ~~205~~ 204 of the optical elements. The light that is polarized parallel to the polarization axis is transmitted to the dichroic cube and further in the optical system 200. All other light is reflected. Some of this light is incident on the LED 211 and is absorbed and re-emitted as unpolarized light as described above. This re-emitted light is then incident on the reflective polarizer, and the process continues as described previously.